

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04375 240823Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /071 W

-----097348 241726Z /75

R 240804Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1268

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, KS, US

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT HEALTH OF KIM TAE-CHUNG

REF: STATE 121275

1. EMBASSY HAS MADE INQUIRIES BOTH OF PEOPLE CLOSE TO KIM TAE-CHUNG AND OF ROKG REGARDING THE STATE OF KIM TAE-CHUNG'S HEALTH.

2. ROKG REPORTS THAT KIM'S MEDICAL CONDITION IS STABLE BUT GOVERNMENT PHYSICIANS HAVE RECOMMENDED A SURGICAL OPERATION BE PERFORMED ON HIS LEG. THEY STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR SURGERY. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO KIM SELECTING A PHYSICIAN OF HIS OWN CHOICE WHO COULD BE EITHER A GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE DOCTOR. THEY WOULD REQUIRE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PHYSICIAN BE KOREAN AND ARE CONFIDENT THE OPERATION COULD BE PERFORMED SUCCESSFULLY IN KOREA. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SOURCE, KIM HAS REJECTED A PROPOSAL THAT HE UNDERGO SURGERY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

3. SOURCES CLOSE TO KIM TAE-CHUNG AND HIS FAMILY HAVE ESSENTIALLY CONFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT REPORT. THEY NOTE THERE IS NO URGENCY WITH REGARD TO SURGICAL PROCEDURES TO CORRECT OR ALLEVIATE KIM'S LEG CONDITION. WHILE  
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04375 240823Z

HAVING MINOR CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE THREAT TO KIM'S HEALTH IF OPERATION PERFORMED WHILE UNDER DETENTION, MAJOR FACTOR IN KIM'S REFUSAL IS HIS RELUCTANCE TO UNDERGO LENGTHY (PROBABLY THREE-MONTH) RECUPERATION PROCESS WHILE UNDER DETENTION. FOR THIS REASON HE WOULD HOPE TO BE RELEASED PRIOR TO UNDERGOING ANY SURGERY. IT IS ALSO AGREED BY THE SOURCE THAT KIM'S

CONDITION APPEARS STABLE, REDUCING ANY URGENCY IN THIS  
MATTER.

4. KIM IS PRESENTLY CONFINED AT SEOUL NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, ONE OF THE BEST IN KOREA, WHERE  
AN OPERATION OF THIS NATURE COULD OBVIOUSLY BE PERFORMED.  
HOWEVER, GIVEN KIM'S OWN VIEW, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE  
WILL HAVE THE PROCEDURE UNDERTAKEN WHILE UNDER DETENTION.  
SINCE AN OPERATION WILL BE REQUIRED AT SOME POINT, IT  
IS OBVIOUSLY AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR PRESSING THE  
GOVERNMENT FOR KIM'S RELEASE SO THAT PAINFUL RECUPERATION  
CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN MORE AMENABLE SURROUNDINGS.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEALTH, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2585657  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT HEALTH OF KIM TAE-CHUNG  
**TAGS:** SHUM, KS, US, (KIM TAE-CHUNG)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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